

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

- [0006] Figure 1 is ~~a side~~ an end view showing a cord shortening device in an opened condition, according to the principles of the present disclosure.
- [0009] Figure 4 is a side view of the cord shortening device of ~~Figure 2~~ Figure 3.
- [0010] Figure 5 is an end view of the cord shortening device of ~~Figure 2~~ Figure 3.
- [0013] Figure 8 is an exploded perspective view of a connecting element and the cord shortening device of Figure 2.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

- [0020] The device 10 further includes a securing mechanism that is monolithically incorporated with the monolithic housing 12. The securing mechanism is configured such that when the first and second portions 14, 16 are closed on one another, they are held releasably secure. The securing mechanism may, for example, include interlocking elements of a snap closure. These interlocking elements may include at least one tab or protrusion 38 (shown as only one protrusion 38 in Figure 2) on or adjacent an edge 40 of the first portion 14. Protrusion 38 has a sufficient depth 38A such that protrusion 38 securedly and releasably mates with at least one recess or through opening 42 (shown as one recess 42 in ~~Figure 5~~ Figure 2) on or adjacent an edge 44 of the second portion 16. The location of the at least one protrusion 38 and the at least one recess 42 may be reversed, with the at least one protrusion 38 on the second portion 16, and the at least one recess 42 on the first portion 14. The portions 14, 16 should be flexible or resilient enough to bend and release the protrusion 38 from the recess 42, thereby opening the device 10, when, for example, portion 14 is pushed inward at, for example, location 14L adjacent the protrusion 38. Otherwise, the secured nature of the mating of protrusion 38

and recess 42 may make it difficult to open the device 10, which difficulty may be a desirable situation to prevent, for example, a child from opening the device 10.